

Application No. 10/723,914
Amendment Dated December 7, 2004
Reply to Office Action of September 8, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An extractor for releasing a compound from a dome end of a ~~easing~~munition, the munition including a casing having an open end opposite the dome end, a liner inside the casing with a flange of the liner mechanically coupled to the casing and directed toward the open end, and the compound enclosed in the casing between the dome end and the liner. the extractor comprising:

a support device connected to the casing, said support device adapted to stabilize the casing as the compound is released from the dome end; and

a fluid port adjacent the dome end of the casing, said fluid port adapted to introduce a fluid through the dome end to the compound to release the compound by separating the compound from the dome end and to shear the mechanical coupling between the liner and the casing.

2. (Withdrawn) The extractor of Claim 1, wherein said support device is slidably engaged within the open end of the casing.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~The extractor of Claim 1, wherein the casing and the compound are elements of a munition, the munition including, a liner inside the casing with a flange of the liner mechanically coupled to the casing and directed toward the open end, and the compound~~

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~~enclosed in the casing between the dome end and the liner~~, said support device including a dejecter slidably engaged within the open end of the casing adjacent the liner to support the liner.

4. (Original) The extractor of Claim 3, further comprising a munition support that holds the munition.

5. (Original) The extractor of Claim 3, wherein the casing includes an opening in the dome end, the munition includes a lead charge in the opening adjacent the compound, and said fluid port abuts the lead charge.

6. (Withdrawn) The extractor of Claim 1, further comprising a fluid source in fluid communication with said fluid port to provide the fluid to said fluid port.

7. (Withdrawn) The extractor of Claim 1, said support device including a dejecter housing and a dejecter slidably engaged with said dejecter housing, said dejecter adapted to contact and stabilize the casing.

8. (Withdrawn) The extractor of Claim 7, said support device further including a compression spring between said dejecter and said dejecter housing, said compression spring resisting axial sliding of said dejecter into said dejecter housing.

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9. (Withdrawn) The extractor of Claim 7, said support device further including a dejecter housing support that holds said dejecter housing axially aligned with the casing.

10. (Withdrawn) The extractor of Claim 1, further comprising a pushing member adapted to urge said fluid port through the dome end to provide fluid communication from said fluid port to the compound.

11. (Withdrawn) The extractor of Claim 10, wherein said pushing member is connected to said support device to urge said support device and the casing against said fluid port.

12. (Withdrawn) The extractor of Claim 10, wherein the casing includes an opening in the dome end and said fluid port is urged into the opening by said pushing member.

13. (Withdrawn) The extractor of Claim 10, wherein said pushing member includes a pneumatically operated compression cylinder that urges said support device and the casing toward said fluid port.

14. (Withdrawn) The extractor of Claim 13, wherein said pushing member also includes a rod connecting said compression cylinder to said support device.

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15. (Currently Amended) ~~The extractor of Claim 1~~ An extractor for releasing a compound from a dome end of a casing, the casing having an open end opposite the dome end, the extractor comprising:

a support device connected to the casing, said support device adapted to stabilize the casing as the compound is released from the dome end; and

a fluid port sealingly abutting the dome end of the casing, said fluid port adapted to introduce a fluid through the dome end to the compound to release the compound by separating the compound from the dome end, wherein the compound is a packed explosive.

16. (Withdrawn) The extractor of Claim 1, wherein the fluid is a pressurized water

Claims 17 and 18 are cancelled.

19. (Original) A method for releasing an explosive from a munition, the munition including a casing having an open end, a dome end opposite the open end, a liner inside the casing with a flange of the liner mechanically coupled to the casing and directed toward the open end, and the explosive enclosed in the casing between the dome end and the liner, the method comprising:

inserting a fluid port into the dome end of the casing; and

introducing a fluid through the fluid port to the explosive to release the explosive by separating the explosive from the dome end and to shear the mechanical coupling between the liner and the casing.

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20. (Original) The method of Claim 19, further comprising removing the released explosive from the casing.

Claims 21 and 22 are cancelled.

23. (Original) An extractor for releasing an explosive from a munition, the munition including a casing having an open end, a dome end opposite the open end, a liner inside the casing with a flange of the liner mechanically coupled to the casing and directed toward the open end, and the explosive enclosed in the casing between the dome end and the liner, the apparatus comprising:

means for inserting a fluid port into the dome end of the casing; and

means for introducing a fluid through the fluid port to the explosive to release the explosive by separating the explosive from the dome end and to shear the mechanical coupling between the liner and the casing.

24. (Original) The extractor of Claim 23, further comprising means for removing the released explosive and liner from the casing.